



(Photo by Pfc. Nathan Smith 4-1 Inf. Public Affairs)

It's all in the Grip

Capt. Scott Hubbard, with the 3rd Battalion, 6th Brigade, 2nd Division Iraqi National Police Training Team, shows an Iraqi National Police recruit how to properly grip a pistol in Baghdad March 24.

Iraqi, U.S. Soldiers outfit schools

By Spc. Chris McCann
2-10 Mtn. Public Affairs

AZ ZAIDON, Iraq - The children, wide-eyed at the sight of Iraqi soldiers in their schools, seemed a little frightened at first, but within moments, as the soldiers began handing out cookies and asking questions about the day's lessons, they warmed up.

Iraqi soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division visited two schools with troops of the 1st

Squadron, 89th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) and the military transition team from 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division March 29.

The visits, which provided much-needed school supplies like chalkboards and generators, also served to let the children and teachers see that the Iraqi troops serve the country and are available.

"Please give me your phone number," Ta'if School headmaster Nafir Abdullah asked the Iraqi troops. "And don't be a

stranger. This school is always open to you, and we would love to have you help educate the children."

Sgt. Richard Fulham, a native of Toms River, N.J., and a squad leader with Troop A, 1-89, distributed cookies from a box to several classes of youngsters.

"My mother-in-law made them for me - but I just had to give them to the kids," he said. "I get too many cookies anyway."

The children shouted and waved, com-

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Iraqi, U.S. troops team up to deliver school supplies

School

From Page 1

peting for the troops' attention and photographs before the teachers called them back to class.

The little assistance that was provided was well received.

"Most of the teachers here work without receiving a salary," Abdullah explained. The school, while well-kept, is very poor. "There are plenty of terrorist attacks at night, but during the day it's very safe. But we have no problems with the Iraqi or U.S. Soldiers coming - please feel free to come anytime."

At the Al-Haafaththa school just up the road, the combined patrol again distributed much-needed goods and goodies to the children and teachers.

"We're doing a humanitarian assistance operation here," said Capt. Joshua Schneider, a



(Photo by Spc. Chris McCann 2-10 Mtn. Public Affairs)

Iraqi soldiers (from left) Misher Jemel, Hatam Karim Namer, Farhan Abdul Itai and Mahdi Sanoun pose with children at the Al-Haafaththa school near Zaidon, Iraq, March 28 during a humanitarian operation delivering school supplies with U.S. Soldiers.

native of Phoenix, Ariz., and the staff maneuver adviser to the Iraqi Army for MiTT 0632.

"We've brought generators, blackboards, book bags filled with school supplies like pens

and pencils and notebook paper, and activity books for school."

About 60 Iraqi soldiers came on the operation.

"The reception has been very good," Schneider added.

"The teachers and Iraqi soldiers are building stronger relationships, and that's only going to help this area."

"It makes me feel all warm and fuzzy inside, helping the children," said 1st Lt. Kevin Grilo, a native of Millington, N.J., and the executive officer for Troop A. "If we give them the ability to learn and get an education, they're less vulnerable to other influences - like extremist views."

Platoon leader 1st Lt. Adam Robison, a native of Columbus, Ohio, was also upbeat about the mission.

"Seeing the kids respond to us handing out toys and book bags is always great - they are so happy. It's like we're Santa Claus to them," Robison said. "I think doing missions like this with the Iraqi soldiers allows people to see that they (the soldiers) care and that they're starting to take responsibility for their country so they can start taking over."

Arabic Phrase of the Day

taban

**Defined:
of course**

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today

High: 81
Low: 52



Tomorrow

High: 84
Low: 52



Monday

High: 82
Low: 57

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Golden Dragons discover cache site

2-10 Mtn. Public Affairs

RUSHDI MULLAH, Iraq - Coalition forces detained three suspected terrorist, discovered three caches and seized a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device production site here March 28.

Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) participated in an operation intended to deny terrorist safe haven in the "Golden Dragon's" area of operations.

The operation, which consisted of air-assault and river phases, proved to be successful when elements of 2-14 Inf. discovered a house that had a false wall. Behind the false wall was a large weapons cache.

In the cache were seven RPK medium machine guns, 10 AK-47s, 30 empty AK-47 magazines, 11 full AK-47 magazines, a semi-automatic rifle, 300 9mm rounds, three full and three empty G3

assault rifle magazines, 1,000 7.62mm rounds, 200 linked unknown rounds, 12.7mm caliber brass, an expended 155mm artillery canister, two .308 bolt action rifles, a mortar fuse and a U.S.-made submachine gun.

The two other caches that were discovered consisted of and IED trigger, eight AK-47 magazines, a bayonet, 100 AK-47 rounds, two full AK-47 magazines and a mortar sighting system.

Also, during the operation a VBIED production site was discovered in the same area. Three vehicles and miscellaneous parts were found that were in the process of being modified to be used as VBIEDs.

Three suspected terrorists were detained during the operation.

The contents of the cache and the VBIEDs were destroyed during a controlled detonation conducted by the explosive ordnance disposal team.

The detainees were held for further questioning.



(U.S. Army photo)

Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment "Golden Dragons," 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) discovered a weapons cache inside a house containing a false wall south of Rushdi Mullah, Iraq March 28.

Baghdad in Brief

Golden Dragons discover weapons cache


RADWANIYAH, Iraq - Multi-National Division - Baghdad Soldiers discovered a weapons cache southwest of Radwaniyah, Iraq March 29.

Soldiers of Company D, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment "Golden Dragons," 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) discovered the cache during a combat patrol.


The cache consisted of four rocket-propelled grenade launchers, three RPG rounds, improvised explosive device making material, 10 mortar fuses and 10 pineapple grenades.

All items found in the cache appeared to be in their original containers.

The contents of the cache were destroyed during a controlled detonation conducted by an explosive ordnance disposal team.



**OPERATION IRAQI
FREEDOM**



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

If each letter of the alphabet, a through z, is equal to a number 1 to 26

Then,

K + N + O + W + L + E + D + G + E
 $11 + 14 + 15 + 23 + 12 + 5 + 4 + 7 + 5 = 96\%$

H + A + R + D + W + O + R + K
 $8 + 1 + 18 + 4 + 23 + 15 + 18 + 11 = 98\%$

Both are important, but the total falls just short of 100%.

However,

A + T + T + I + T + U + D + E
 $1 + 20 + 20 + 9 + 20 + 21 + 4 + 5 = 100\%$

Safety really is about attitude

BE SAFE
MAKE IT HOME

Black Jack performs medical mission on Haifa St.

By Sgt. 1st Class Kap Kim
2-1 Cav. Public Affairs

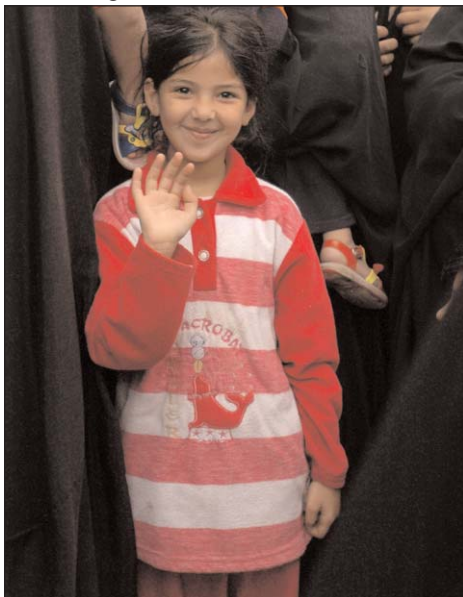
BAGHDAD - As Haifa St. residents begin coming back out into the streets that were once too dangerous to step into, coalition and Iraqi security forces are beginning to lend a much needed hand in many of the basic needs.

So, with hundreds of medical supplies, a few Army medical Soldiers and an Iraqi doctor and nurse on hand, the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, used an elementary school to perform examinations on hundreds of local citizens during a medical mission in the Haifa St. district of Baghdad March 24.

"It's really good that they are doing this," said a man who brought his daughter to the clinic. "With the security plan working now, we can come out again."

According to Maj. Bruce Rivers, the 2nd Brigade's surgeon, there hasn't been a medical mission such as this in the Karkh District in a long time. Due to the violence there during the last two years, most of the hospitals and clinics were closed. So, many of the people there have had to do with out, said Rivers, who calls Washington, D.C. home.

"The goal of this medical mission was to



A little girl waits in line to be seen during the medical mission in central Baghdad, Iraq March 24.



(Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kap Kim 2-1 Cav. Public Affairs)

Maj. Bruce Rivers, the 2nd BCT, 1st Cav. Div. surgeon listens to a patient's lungs during a medical mission in central Baghdad March 24.

improve on the confidence of the Iraqi people of their medical system," he said. "What I envisioned was both the Iraqi doctors and ISF medical personnel being here."

Within a five-hour period, the team saw more than 230 patients, who were mostly women and children, according to Rivers.

"We treated anything from high blood pressure and diabetes, to respiratory infections and urinary tract infections," he said.

Yet, there were many cases that the medical team could not help with.

"There were people we could not help," he said sadly. "Their problems were beyond the scope of what we can do."

He said his plan is to work with the National Iraqi Assistance Center and other organizations to seek further care for the people they couldn't help.

With hundreds of people waiting in line, a team of medics from Troop B, 4th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, worked with interpreters to screen patients.

Spc. Marc Allen, a 4th Battalion, 9th Cavalry Regiment medic from Federal Way, Wash., personally screened more than 100 patients before sending them to one of the rooms inside the makeshift exam area.

Capt. Christopher Dawson, commander, Troop B, 4-9 Cav. Regt., said missions like this are extremely important because it should

be used as a model for future operations.

"The bottom line is that we are (eventually) going away," said the Lima, Ohio native. "We are here supplementing what the [ISF] will plan in the future."

According to Dawson, the medical mission wasn't designed to treat everyone. It was to treat those who could be treated, and for the rest, it was supposed to get them by until they could seek proper medical attention.

His troop, along with the local Iraqi National Police, provides security to the hundreds of residents who came to seek medical attention.

"We've been doing a few humanitarian missions with the security being better," Dawson said. "And in the past couple of months, it's gotten better ... they are thirsting for security here. We started the constant presence - day-to-day you can see the little stuff, but that little stuff adds up."

According to Capt. Gene Palka, the 4-9 Operations officer, said the medical mission went well. In the future, Rivers said he hopes that hospitals and clinics will eventually start opening up in that area because the people there really need the medical attention.

"The people really like us being there," he said. "Every time we go, we get a really warm reception."

A man of God wears the uniform

Sgt. 1st Class Nicholas Conner
15th SB, Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq - To the Soldiers of the 68th Combat Sustainment and Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, Chaplain (Capt.) Leo Moras' trademark smile usually precedes a handshake or an update to the care package pile outside his office.

These are his Soldiers, he says. He trained and deployed with them; anything he can do for them, he will. Be it providing the contents of care packages sent by stateside supporters or just talking briefly with Soldiers daily, Moras energetically looks out for his "Stagecoach" troops.

Service to others has been a constant for Moras, a Catholic priest from Bantwal, India. The oldest of six, few prospects were open to the son of a poor farmer after finishing high school. Entering the priesthood seemed a good fit for a young man determined to help others. It must have run in the family. Moras has two sisters who became catholic nuns.

"My father jokes that is a fifty-fifty contribution; three to the world and three to God," he laughs.

After gaining a reputation as an outspoken seminarian, a priest once confronted him, asking if he wanted to be a priest or a politician. Father Moras took the task of building Saint Thomas the Apostle church in Jaipur, India.

But the creation of a new school, parish, rectory and convent from scratch took its toll on the priest.

"I was a one-man band," said Moras. "With no one to help, I just got burned out, to the point of collapse."

Vacation time, a passport and friends in America provided Moras the opportunity to make a break for it. Unbeknownst to family and friends, the Indian priest boarded a plane to Lubbock, Texas.

"No one knew," he laughed. "Not even my great-uncle, the bishop [of the Indian diocese]."

Upon arriving in the Lone Star state, Fr. Moras became a commodity to the catholic community. With the current priest out of commission from hip surgery, Moras took over the parish of Saint John Newman.

A Texan bishop rewarded Moras' work by



(U.S. Army photo)

Chaplain (Capt.) Leo Moras stands during a Catholic Mass for the Soldiers of the 68th CSSB, 15th SB, on Seitz Annex. Ordained as a Catholic priest in India, Moras joined the Army to serve the needs of Soldiers, regardless of their faith.

giving him his own parish in Snyder, Texas. Once again, he found himself at the head of both a church and a school.

"I was doing the same thing I was doing in India," said Moras. "I wanted to do something for others outside [of the catholic faith]. I was training people, but I wanted to serve people."

That strong desire for service lead Fr. Moras to the Army and the Chaplain Corps. He secured permission, from both his bishop in India and in Texas, to trade his white clerical collar for the digital pattern of the Army combat uniform.

"Here I am," he grins. "I am serving Soldiers and am taking care of people all over the world."

Now on his second deployment to Iraq, Moras makes sure that his Soldiers are "fully-loaded" before departing the wire on missions.

He printed and distributed more than 12,000 prayer cards to troops and family members. In keeping with the unique sustainment and logistical missions of the 68th CSSB, Moras came up with the "Convoy Prayer."

"I've come to know the troops and I came to know their mission," he explained. "Constantly on the road, I know how dangerous it is; how they really rely on the mercy of God."

Moras now spends his days ministering to the Soldiers of the 68th CSSB, doing what he can to provide comfort and support. In return, he asks for only one thing.

"Now I know the power of prayer," he smiles. "I don't ask for big things, I just ask for one 'Hail Mary' from everyone I meet." For Moras, great things always start from humble beginnings.